

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 03009 101334Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7032

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NI, OVIP, CARTER, JIMMY

SUBJECT: BRIEFING PAPER FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) LAGOS 2368, (B) AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SMITH AF/W
DECEMBER 12, 1977

1. EMBASSY IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVISING PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PAPERS ORIGINALLY PREPARED FOR NOVEMBER 1977 VISIT. BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS REPRESENT NEW DEVELOPMENT AND ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS: FOR USE AS AN ADDITIONAL BRIEFING PAPER.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A MUTUAL PROPOSAL MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO AT THEIR OCTOBER MEETING, BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS WERE HELD IN LAGOS NOVEMBER 7-9 TO EXAMINE AND HELP RESOLVE A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. A USG DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORMATS MET WITH THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CABINET AND VARIOUS MINISTRIES. A ONE-DAY PLEANRY SESSION WAS BUTTRESSED BY INDIVIDUAL SECTORAL MEETINGS BETWEEN SPECIALISTS. IDS-KUSSION RANGED FROM REMOVAL OF TRADE BARRIERS AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT TO THE NEED FOR EXPANDED FINANCING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE TO FORM WORKING GROUPS IN THREE TOPIC AREAS: TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER; AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION. A JOINT STATEMENT SUMMARIZING THE CONFERENCE WAS

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LATER ISSUED.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSONS WITH THE FMG, THE EMBASSY PREPARED AN AGENDA FOR THE WORKING GROUPS AND PROPOSED THE UNITED STATES AS THE LOCATION FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS AND OBSERVATION. THE FMG TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED THIS AND PROPOSED FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 5 AS THE VISIT TIME. THE TRIP WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED

BY THE HEAD OF STATE, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS TOO
LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPRO-
PRIATE ON THE EVE OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET PRESENTATION, WHICH WAS
EXPECTED TO BE AUSTERE. THE MEA EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE FMG
STRONGLY FAVORED THE TRIP AND THE AGENDA, THE TALKS SHOULD OCCUR
AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. MEA IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH US
ON THE PROJECT AND WE EXPECT THE TRIP TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE
APRIL OR EARLY MAY. THE THREE-PART NIGERIAN DELEGATION, CON-
SISTING OF 10-12 MEMBERS, WILL HAVE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND
THEN WILL PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY.
EASUM

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